

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 27, 2007, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 8 have been amended for stylistic reasons. The amendments are unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims.

Claim 1 claims a rear projection-type screen and claim 8 claims a rear projection-type image display device comprising a rear projection-type screen. The screen comprises two sheet-like members and a plurality of spacers. The two sheet-like members are each made of a transparent material and have minute lenses formed on at least one surface thereof. The two sheet-like members are disposed such that the surfaces with the lenses formed thereon confront each other. The plurality of the spacers are disposed at appropriate spaced intervals between the confronting lenses of the two sheet-like members. The spacers are disposed (a) within an effective screen area for passing and focusing an image light thereon and (b) in a peripheral region of the effective screen area.

By having a plurality of spacers dispose both (a) within an effective screen area and (b) in a peripheral region of the effective screen area, as claimed in claims 1 and 8, the claimed invention provides a device which prevents the lenses of the two sheet-like members from being deformed and scratched in order to increase the quality of the images displayed. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 8.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-9 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.* (JP2002-107829) in view of *Ikari et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,196).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Nishikawa et al. appears to disclose a screen combining a lenticular lens sheet 20 and a Fresnel lens sheet 10. Convex SUPESA 30 is formed in the periphery of the Fresnel lens sheet 10 [0010]. FIG. 2(d) discloses a Fresnel lens sheet consisting of a lens section 42 with a sharp serrated knife-like crowning. As shown in FIG. 2(c) it is common to carry out lamination of the lenticular lens sheet to the periphery outside the lens service area of the Fresnel lens through adhesives or double-sided tape 60 [0003]. When the periphery of the Fresnel lens deforms as shown in FIG. 2(e), the image projected on screen 70 shows defective fingerprint-like irregular pattern 80 generated everywhere in the periphery causing deterioration of the image quality [0004].

Thus, *Nishikawa et al.* only discloses adhering the Fresnel lens sheet with adhesives or double sided tape 60 (FIG. 2d) or using convex SUPESA 30 (FIG. 2b) in the periphery of the Fresnel lens sheet. Nothing in *Nishikawa et al.* shows, teaches or suggests spacers disposed both (a) within an effective screen area and (b) in a peripheral region of the effective screen area as claimed in claims 1 and 8. Rather, *Nishikawa et al.* only discloses tape 60 or convex SUPESA 30 disposed in the periphery of the Fresnel lens sheet.

Furthermore, FIG 2(e) of *Nishikawa et al.* only discloses generating a defective fingerprint-like irregular pattern 80 in the periphery of the screen caused by deformation of the periphery of the Fresnel lens sheet [0004]. Thus, nothing in *Nishikawa et al.* shows, teaches or suggests spacers disposed within an effective screen area as claimed in claims 1 and 8. Rather,

Nishikawa et al. only discloses generating an irregular pattern in the periphery caused by deformation of the Fresnel lens.

Ikari et al. appears to disclose a rear-projection type screen shown in FIG. 1 comprises a Fresnel lens sheet 1, a lenticular lens sheet 2 and a protrusion 4 is integrally formed in the Fresnel lens sheet 1 at the lenticular lens sheet 2 side in a region outside the image range. As shown in FIG. 1, a hollow place corresponding to the protrusion 4 is formed in the lenticular lens sheet 2 at the Fresnel lens sheet 1 side. By fitting of the protrusion 4 of the Fresnel lens sheet 1 to the hollow place of the lenticular lens sheet 2 both are fixed. As a result, the tape attachment operation in the outer circumferential part of both sheets is unnecessary (Col. 3, lines 51-61).

Thus, *Ikari et al.* merely discloses a Fresnel lens sheet and a lenticular lens sheet fixed to each other by a protrusion 4 of the Fresnel lens sheet outside an image range. Nothing in *Ikari et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of spacers disposed (a) within an effective screen area and (b) in a peripheral region of the effective screen area as claimed in claims 1 and 8. Rather, *Ikari et al.* only discloses a protrusion 4 formed outside an image range.

A combination of *Ikari et al.* and *Nishikawa et al.* would merely suggest to use the convex SUPESA 30 of *Nishikawa et al.* and in addition to include the projections 4 of the Fresnel lens and the hollow place in the lenticular lens sheet as taught by *Ikari et al.* Thus, nothing in the combination of the references shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of spacers disposed both within an effective screen area and in a peripheral region of the effective screen area as claimed in claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 2, 5-6, 9 and 12-13 depend from claims 1 and 8 and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 5-6, 9 and 12-13 would not have been obvious

within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103 over *Nishikawa et al.* and *Ikari et al.* at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2, 5-6, 9 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.*, in view of *Ikari et al.* and further in view of *Honda et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0030903).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, since nothing in the combination of *Nishikawa et al.* and *Ikari et al.* show, teach or suggest the primary features as claimed in claims 1 and 8, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the primary references with the secondary reference to *Honda et al.* will not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.*, in view of *Ikari et al.*, and further in view of *Ota et al.* (JP2001-324766).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

As discussed above, nothing in *Nishikawa et al.* and *Ikari et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of spacers disposed both within an effective screen area and in a peripheral region of the effective screen area as claimed in claims 1 and 8.

Ota et al. appears to disclose granular material 22, used for horizontal diffusion, located between a Fresnel lens 23 and a lenticular lens 21 [0005]. FIG. 6 shows the granular material 22 is of a light transmission nature member and a spacer 24 is located between the Fresnel lens sheet and the lenticular lens sheet. The spacer 24 is formed in an off-screen periphery [0007].

Thus, *Ota et al.* only discloses a light transmission nature member of granular material 22 and a spacer 24 formed in an off-screen periphery. Thus, the granular material 22 in *Ota et al.* is not a spacer member but is used to horizontally diffuse light [0005]. The only spacer member provided in *Ota et al.* is in the off-screen area [0007]. Thus, nothing in *Ota et al.* taken singularly or in combination with *Nishikawa et al.* and *Ikari et al.*, show, teach or suggest spacers disposed both within an effective screen area and in a periphery region of the effective screen area. Furthermore, nothing in the combination of the references shows, teaches or suggests spacers positioned between the crest of lens elements of the confronting lenses of the two sheet-light members as claimed in claims 4 and 11. Rather, the material 22 of *Ota et al.* is for horizontal diffusion of light. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 05-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 6, 2007